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Appl. No. 10/726,309
Docket No. 9454
Amdt. dated 6/20/06
Reply to Office Action mailed on 3/24/06
Customer No. 27752

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A packaging system comprising:

a blow-molded container comprising a longitudinal axis, said blow-molded container further comprising a closed bottom, an open top, and a body having an enclosed perimeter between said bottom and said top;

wherein said bottom, top, and body together define an interior volume and wherein said body has at least one region of deflection disposed thereon, said region of deflection having less resistance to flexing than the body of said container proximate to said region of deflection;

an outwardly facing annular protuberance disposed upon said body, said annular protuberance being continuously disposed around said perimeter of said body proximate to said top wherein said protuberance forms a surface external to said body, said surface being substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis; and,

a flexible closure removably attached and sealed to said annular protuberance wherein coffee is contained within said packaging system.

2. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 1 wherein said flexible closure comprises a laminate structure, said laminate structure comprising at least one barrier layer.

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3. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 2 wherein said laminate further comprises a foil.
4. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 1 wherein said flexible closure has a one-way valve disposed thereon.
5. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 1 wherein said blow-molded container comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, linear low density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, high density polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, co-polymers thereof, and combinations thereof.
6. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 5 wherein said material is a multi-layered structure.
7. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 6 wherein said multi-layered structure further comprises at least one oxygen barrier layer.
8. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 1 wherein said body has a handle disposed thereon.
9. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 8 wherein said handle is integral with said body.
10. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 8 wherein said handle is substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis of said container.

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11. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 1 further comprising an overcap.

12. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 11 wherein said overcap is constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, linear low density polyethylene, low density polyethylene, high density polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, co-polymers thereof, and combinations thereof.

13. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 11 wherein said overcap further comprises a first protuberance disposed upon said overcap, said protuberance being mateingly engageable with a second protuberance disposed upon said body of said container, wherein said overcap is releasably attached to said container upon the mating engagement of said first and second protuberances.

14. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 11, wherein said overcap comprises a dome portion, said dome portion comprising a first surface, said first surface having at least one protuberance disposed thereon.

15. – 17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) The packaging system of Claim 1 wherein said coffee is roast and ground.

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19. (Currently Amended) A packaging system comprising:

a blow-molded container comprising a longitudinal axis, said blow-molded container further comprising a closed bottom, an open top, and a body having an enclosed perimeter between said bottom and said top;

wherein said bottom, top, and body together define an interior volume and wherein said body has at least one region of deflection disposed thereon, said region of deflection having less resistance to flexing than the body of said container proximate to said region of deflection;

an outwardly facing annular protuberance disposed upon said body, said annular protuberance being continuously disposed around the perimeter of said body proximate to said top wherein said protuberance forms a surface external to said body, said surface being substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis;

a flexible closure removably attached and sealed to said annular protuberance;

wherein said annular protuberance translates the force of a load of at least about 16 pounds disposed upon said packaging system in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis and

wherein coffee is contained within said packaging system.

20. (Original) The packaging system of Claim 19 wherein said blow-molded container is manufactured from a material having a tensile modulus ranging from at least about 35,000 pounds per square inch (2,381 atm) to at least about 650,000 pounds per square inch (44,230 atm).

21. (New) The packaging system of Claim 1, wherein said closed bottom of said container is concave inwardly.